

Message Text

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GENEVA FOR MTN

E.O. 11652:N/A
ETRD, EEC, US
SUBJECT: TRANSCRIPT AMBASSADOR STRAUSS PRESS CONFERENCE

1. HERewith, TRANSCRIPT JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE HELD
BY US SPECIAL TRADE REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT STRAUSS AND
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS
WILLY HAFERKAMP AT EC COMMISSION HEADQUARTERS AFTERNOON
JULY 11:

2. COMMISSION SPOKESMAN RENATO RUGGIERO: GOOD AFTERNOON,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. IT IS OUR GREAT PLEASURE TODAY
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TO HAVE AMBASSADOR ROBERT STRAUSS WITH US HERE TODAY.
HE IS THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES FOR TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AND WE ALSO HAVE
VICE-PRESIDENT HAFERKAMP WITH US.

MR. HAFERKAMP WILL MAKE A BRIEF INTRODUCTION WHICH WILL
THEN BE FOLLOWED BY A STATEMENT BY MR. ROBERT STRAUSS.

AFTER THAT, FEEL FREE TO ASK ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.

3. HAFERKAMP: LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I, FOR MY PART, WOULD ALSO LIKE TO WELCOME THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES FOR COMMERCIAL QUESTIONS, AMBASSADOR ROBERT STRAUSS HERE IN BRUSSELS. AMBASSADOR STRAUSS HAS ESPECIALLY COME FROM WASHINGTON FOR OUR DISCUSSIONS TODAY. YOU WILL REMEMBER THAT IN MARCH WE DID HAVE SOME DISCUSSIONS HERE IN BRUSSELS ON QUESTIONS WHICH CONCERNED GATT NEGOTIATIONS AND WE HAVE TODAY CONTINUED THESE TALKS AND OUR PURPOSE HAS BEEN NOW TO MOVE INTO THE ACTIVE PHASE OF PREPARATION WHICH WE HAVE TO DO AND WILL DO IN FACT. IT IS OUR OPINION THAT WE MUST DO THIS AND WE ARE IN AGREEMENT WITH MR. STRAUSS ON THAT, THAT WE MUST NOW ACTIVELY AND SPEEDILY MOVE AHEAD BECAUSE, IN THE FIRST PLACE, THIS IS A DECISION TAKEN AT THE DOWNING STREET SUMMIT BY THE HEADS OF STATE PARTICIPATING IN THAT MEETING. THEY COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO THAT AND THEY INSTRUCTED US TO GET AHEAD AND SECONDLY, BECAUSE WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THE PRESENT WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION DOES NOT, AS SOME PEOPLE SEEM TO CLAIM, REQUIRE A SLOW DOWN ON THESE NEGOTIATIONS. ON THE CONTRARY, IT REQUIRES SPEEDIER PROGRESS TO BE MADE. WE HAVE SPOKEN ABOUT THE GENERAL ORIENTATIONS FOR THESE NEGOTIATIONS. WE HAVE AGREED ON TIME TABLE IDEAS AND WE HAVE WORKED OUT A VERY RAPID WORKING TIME TABLE, AND I HAVE AGREED THAT AMBASSADOR UNCLASSIFIED

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STRAUSS WILL GIVE YOU THE DETAILS OF THIS. I AM GRATEFUL TO HIM FOR DOING SO. THANK YOU.

3. STRAUSS: THANK YOU, MR. VICE PRESIDENT. I EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO EACH OF YOU FOR BEING HERE TODAY. AMBASSADOR WOLF, DEPUTY STR, AND I ARRIVED LATE LAST EVENING AS WE ARE VERY PLEASED TO BE HERE. WE LEAVE TONIGHT OR EARLY IN THE MORNING. I SAID VERY PLEASED TO BE HERE BECAUSE IN MY JUDGMENT, AS I VIEW IT, BOTH PERSONALLY AND WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT, WITH SIR ROY DENMAN, WHO I AM ALSO PLEASED TO WELCOME HERE TODAY AND WHO JOINED US. I THINK THIS IS PROBABLY THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DAY REALLY IN THE HISTORY OF THE TOKYO ROUND. I LEAVE HERE AND RETURN TO GIVE PRESIDENT CARTER AN EXCEEDINGLY POSITIVE REPORT. I'LL OF COURSE GIVE THE SAME REPORT TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES. WE HAVE MET TODAY WITH PRESIDENT JENKINS, WITH COMMISSIONER GUNDELACH, WITH COMMISSIONER DAVIGNON, THE VICE PRESIDENT AND THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, SIR ROY DENMAN WHO JUST ARRIVED HERE A FEW MOMENTS AGO. THE RESULTS OF OUR MEETINGS HAVE BEEN THAT WE HAVE COME TO A FULL ACCORD, FULL AGREEMENT AND COMMITMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE FOLLOWING.

NOW I SHALL GO SLOWLY AND BE PRECISE, BECAUSE I THINK IT IS SUBSTANTIVE.

1. WE ALL AGREED THAT THERE IS AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY FOR A COMPREHENSIVE AND SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATION. WE HAVE AGREED, AS THE VICE PRESIDENT SAID, THAT RATHER THAN DELAY BECAUSE OF WORLD ECONOMIES, THE CONTRARY IS TRUE AND WORLD ECONOMIES DICTATE THAT WE NO LONGER CAN AFFORD THE LUXURY OF DELAY. WE HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY AGREED UPON A TIMETABLE WITH RESPECT TO THE FOLLOWING; WE REALLY HAVE SEVERAL PHASES. THE FIRST PHASE IS THAT WE MUST AGREE ON A GENERAL TARIFF PLAN THAT WILL INCLUDE: 1. A TARIFF FORMULA; 2. SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO HOW TO DEAL WITH AGRICULTURE; 3. SPECIFIC STATEMENTS WITH RESPECT

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TO WHAT WE MUST DO WITH RESPECT TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES;

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AND 4. HOW WE SHALL DEAL WITH NON-FORMULA COUNTRIES.

4. AND I SHALL CALL THAT PHASE I. PHASE II, WE ARE
IN ACCORD, THAT WE SHOULD TABLE AS THE NEXT PHASE THREE

KINDS OF REQUESTS: 1. AGRICULTURAL TARIFFS; 2. ALL NON-TARIFF BARRIERS OUTSIDE THE CODES; 3. TARIFF REQUESTS FOR NON-FORMULA COUNTRIES. AND THAT WE CONSIDER PHASE II. PHASE III. WE ARE IN ACCORD WE SHOULD TABLE TEXTS, AN ACTUAL TEXT IN ALL CODES, AND THAT'S PHASE III. AND PHASE IV. WE AGREE THAT EVERYONE SHOULD TABLE OFFERS INCLUDING INDUSTRIAL TARIFFS, WITH TARIFF SCHEDULES; AND AGRICULTURAL, WITH RESPECT TO THE AGRICULTURAL ASPECT OF IT, WE ARE TALKING IN TERMS OF ITEM BY ITEM OFFERS AND EXCEPTIONS. WE HAVE AGREED THAT THESE FOUR PHASES CAN AND MUST BE COMPLETED ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 15TH; AND WITH THE COMPLETION OF THESE PHASES, WE SHALL HAVE THE TOTAL PACKAGE IN PLACE FOR THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE FINAL DETAILED NEGOTIATIONS. MY JUDGMENT IS THAT EACH OF THE GENTLEMEN TO WHOM I REFERRED IS COMMITTED TO THIS JANUARY 15 TIMETABLE, AS AM I. IT IS OUR HOPE, IT IS OUR UNCLASSIFIED

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EXPECTATION, AND WE HAVE INSTRUCTED AND WILL INSTRUCT THOSE WHO WILL MEET IN WASHINGTON ON JULY 15 AND 16 UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF SIR ROY DENMAN AND AMBASSADOR WOLFF TO BREAK THESE FOUR PHASES DOWN AS THEY WORK WITH OUR TECHNICAL PEOPLE INTO SPECIFIC DATES FOR ACCOMMODATION OF EACH OF THE FOUR PHASES. OBVIOUSLY, TREMENDOUS WORK IS GOING TO HAVE TO BE COMPLETED DURING SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER. AND WE HAVE FURTHER AGREED THAT BY JULY 25, AT WHICH TIME VICE PRESIDENT HAFERKAMP'S COUNCIL MEETS, WE SHALL HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE WITH RESPECT TO THE FOUR DATES IN WHICH WE EXPECT THESE FOUR PHASES TO BE COMPLETED AND OBVIOUSLY THEY WILL FALL IN THREE-, FOUR-, FIVE-, SIX-WEEKS SEGMENTS, BECAUSE THAT'S ALL WE HAVE; BUT BY THAT TIME WE WILL BE ABLE TO BE ENTIRELY WITH SPECIFICS. I'LL BE DELIGHTED TO TAKE ANY QUESTIONS AS I KNOW THE VICE PRESIDENT WILL BE AND ANY ONE ELSE HERE.

5. THE GUARDIAN, JOHN PALMER:

COULD I ASK MR. STRAUSS WHETHER HE FEELS THAT THE RECENT SPEECH BY THE FRENCH PRIME MINISTER, M. BARRE, ABOUT THE WISDOM OF CONTINUING AT THE PRESENT PACE WITH THE GATT NEGOTIATIONS IN VIEW OF THE DOMESTIC ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WAS A HELPFUL CONTRIBUTION. COULD I ASK VICE PRESIDENT HAFERKAMP WHETHER THE US DECISION TO REQUIRE 10 PERCENT OF THE OIL INDUSTRY'S TRAFFIC TO BE CARRIED BY US SHIPS WAS A HELPFUL GESTURE BY THE UNITED STATES IN THE PRESENT JUNCTURE.

6. STRAUSS; LET ME ANSWER THAT. FIRST, WITH RESPECT TO THE STATEMENT, LET ME ONLY SAY THIS: IT WOULD BE MY ANTICIPATION AND I THINK THE ANTICIPATION OF THE OTHERS THAT OBVIOUSLY WE ARE GOING TO BE TALKING WITH OUR VARIOUS

PARTNERS, JAPAN, THE LDC'S AND OTHERS. WITH RESPECT
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SPECIFICALLY TO THOSE IN THE COMMUNITY, I WOULD THINK THAT THE FRENCH WILL BE IN FULL ACCORD WITH US AND I EXPECT NO DIFFICULTY THERE. I DON'T CARE TO COMMENT ON WHETHER THAT STATEMENT WAS HELPFUL OR NOT; THE STATEMENT STANDS ON ITS OWN BOTTOM AS DO THE STATEMENTS I MADE HERE TODAY AND THE COMMITMENTS I ANNOUNCED HERE TODAY. MAY I DIRECT MYSELF, IF I MAY ANSWER A BIT OF THAT PREFERENCE LEGISLATION IF I CAN, OR DO YOU CARE TO, SINCE I AM MORE FAMILIAR WITH THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SCENE. I'LL GIVE A GENERAL ANSWER AND THEN THE VICE PRESIDENT WILL ADD WHAT HE WISHES TO ADD. AS MANY IF NOT ALL OF YOU KNOW, PRESIDENT CARTER DURING HIS CAMPAIGN MADE CERTAIN AS A PART OF HIS PLATFORM, AS I PERCEIVED IT, CERTAIN PREFERENCES SHOULD BE ACCORDED AMERICAN BOTTOMS. THERE IS NO QUESTION ABOUT THAT. YOU WILL ALSO RECALL THAT THE CONGRESS HAS PASSED LEGISLATION A YEAR OR SO AGO CALLING FOR 30 PERCENT CARGO PREFERENCE. IF YOU ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH THAT, THAT IS A FACT; AND IT WAS VETOED. IT IS OUR OPINION IN THE ADMINISTRATION THAT THE CONGRESS WOULD AGAIN HAVE PASSED A 30 PERCENT CARGO PREFERENCE. PRESIDENT CARTER AND I AS HIS SPECIAL TRADE REPRESENTATIVE AND OTHERS FELT THAT THE LEGISLATION SHOULD BE ENDORSED BY THE ADMINISTRATION CALLING NOT FOR TEN PERCENT BUT CALLING AT THE BEGINNING FOR 5 1-2 PERCENT AND A RISING TO 9 1-2 PERCENT OVER A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS. THAT WOULD BE THE MOST CONSTRUCTIVE ANSWER TO THAT SPECIFIC PROBLEM BOTH FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF OUR COUNTRY AND THE POINT OF VIEW OF NATIONS WITH WHICH WE DO BUSINESS. WE HAVE NO APOLOGY FOR IT. MR. VICE PRESIDENT....

7. HAFERKAMP: I WOULD JUST LIKE TO SAY THAT WE'VE GOT THE STATEMENT ISSUED AFTER THE DOWNING STREET SUMMIT AND WE'RE SURE THAT THIS EXPRESSES THE GENERAL WILL TO MAKE PROGRESS AND WE FEEL THIS GENERAL WILLINGNESS DOES EXIST, EVEN IF THERE MAY BE DIFFICULTIES ON INDIVIDUAL POINTS. FURTHERMORE, I AM CONVINCED AND I THINK OUR DISCUSSION

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TODAY HAS BORNE THIS OUT THAT WITH REGARD TO DISCUSSION
ON MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WILL CERTAINLY BE
THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS A NUMBER OF VERY TRICKY PROBLEMS.
I AM SURE IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS WE'LL BE MEETING ONE
ANOTHER QUITE A LOT PERSONALLY AND AT AN OFFICIAL LEVEL
AND WE WILL TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY BECAUSE OF THE VERY GOOD
WORKING ATMOSPHERE WE'VE GOT TO TOUCH UPON SUCH BURNING
ISSUES DURING THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

8. MILLIGAN (THE ECONOMIST):

COULD I ASK MR. STRAUSS, YOU SAID YOU AGREED ON A TIME-
TABLE. COULD YOU GIVE SOME INDICATIONS IF YOU HAVE
AGREED ON ANY SUBSTANCE, IN PARTICULAR ON AGRICULTURE,
WHICH HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN THE MAIN STUMBLING BLOCK.
COULD I ASK, DID YOU GET ANY INDICATION ON THE WILLINGNESS
TO DISCUSS CONCESSIONS ON AGRICULTURAL TARIFFS, AND IF YOU
DID NOT GET ANY CONCESSION ON AGRICULTURAL TARIFFS, DO
YOU THINK YOU COULD SELL ANY PACKAGE TO THE AMERICAN
CONGRESS?

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9. STRAUSS; THAT'S A VERY GOOD QUESTION. I'M PLEASED
TO ANSWER IT. IT'S ONE THAT I INTENDED TO COVER IN MY
OPENING STATEMENT AND NEGLECTED TO. WE HAD A VERY
POSITIVE, A VERY HEALTHY, A VERY OPEN, A VERY FRANK, A
VERY FORTHCOMING VISIT WITH FINN GUNDELACH THIS MORNING.
IT IS VERY OBVIOUS TO US, AND WE SO STATED, THAT OF COURSE
WE IN SO FAR AS THE UNITED STATES IS CONCERNED, RECOGNIZE
THE SPECIAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS INVOLVED. WE
RECOGNIZE ALSO THAT THIS CONVERSATION THAT HAS TAKEN PLACE
IN THE PAST WITH RESPECT TO NECESSITY TO MAKE STRUCTURAL
CHANGES IN THE CAP IS SOMETHING THAT THIS NATION, OUR
NATION, DOES NOT EXPECT, AND WILL NOT EXPECT AND WILL NOT

NEGOTIATE FOR. THAT DOES NOT MEAN, BECAUSE WE WILL EXPECT AND DO EXPECT THAT WE WILL APPROACH THE PROBLEMS OF AGRICULTURE TO SEE THAT, NUMBER ONE, THERE IS AVAILABLE THE PRODUCT FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, TO THE OTHERS, THAT CONSUMERS ARE PROVIDED WITH FOOD AT A REASONABLE BASIS, AND THAT THERE ARE AMPLE FOODSTUFFS. THERE IS GOING TO BE SOME DIFFICULT NEGOTIATING TIMES IN THERE, BUT LET ME SAY THAT WE FRAMED IN ALONG THOSE LINES THE BASIS FOR THOSE NEGOTIATIONS. THOSE NEGOTIATIONS WILL TAKE PLACE AND THAT WAS A MAJOR STEP FORWARD, BECAUSE AGRICULTURE WILL BE NEGOTIATED IN PARALLEL WITH INDUSTRY, WILL BE A MAJOR PART OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS AND WILL BE WITHIN THAT FRAMEWORK.

10. PETER DREYER (JOURNAL OF COMMERCE): AMBASSADOR STRAUS, I GATHER FROM YOUR REMARKS THAT YOU HAVE AGREED, AS IT WERE, ON A TIME FOR CLEARING THE DECKS FOR ACTION. DO YOU ALSO HAVE A TARGET DATE FOR WHEN ACTION WILL BE COMPLETED?

11. STRAUSS: LET ME BEGIN BY SAYING THAT I DON'T, AS YOU UNCLASSIFIED

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WELL KNOW, MY CANDOR HAS STOOD ME BOTH IN GOOD STEAD AND BAD STEAD, AND I DON'T ACCEPT THE PREMISE OF YOUR QUESTION. I THINK WE HAVE AGREED ON A HELL OF A LOT MORE THAN A TIME FRAME, SOMETIME WHEN WE'RE GOING TO BEGIN ACTION. I THINK TODAY WE TOOK ACTION, IN A MOST POSITIVE WAY, I THINK WE TOOK MORE ACTION TODAY IN A PERIOD OF SEVEN HOURS THAN HAS BEEN TAKEN IN A LONG TIME; AND MY COLLEAGUES WILL AGREE WITH ME ON THAT; AND I WOULD EXPECT ANY ASSESSMENT OF WHAT WE SET FORTH HERE TODAY WOULD HAVE TO COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT WE MADE SOME MAJOR STEPS FORWARD.

12. JEAN LECERF (LE FIGARO):
MR. AMBASSADOR, WHERE ARE WE SO FAR, IN THE MTN?

13. STRAUSS: WELL, SINCE I HAVEN'T BEEN INVOLVED IN THAT ROUND, I AM NOT GOING TO ASSESS HOW FAR WE HAVE GOTTEN BUT I WILL SAY THIS: I THINK THAT WITHIN THE PAST SIXTY DAYS WE'VE MADE MORE PROGRESS THAN HAS BEEN MADE IN A LONG, LONG TIME AND I THINK THAT THE THINGS WE'VE AGREED UPON TODAY BRUSHES ASIDE, NUMBER ONE, PROCEDURES, BRUSHES ASIDE MANY OTHER THINGS. WE'VE GOT RID OF SOME OF THE GHOSTS, IF YOU WILL AND BOGEY MEN WHO'VE HOVERED OVER THESE NEGOTIATIONS. WE'VE CLEARED AWAY A NUMBER OF THINGS THAT WE WILL AND WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DO. WE KNOW SOME OF THE THINGS WE CAN'T DO. I DON'T CARE TO GO INTO IT HERE. WE ACKNOWLEDGE TODAY THAT WE'RE GOING TO HAVE

TO COME TO GRIPS, FOR EXAMPLE, WITH SUBSIDIES AND
COUNTERVAILING DUTIES AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. WE'VE
RECOMMITTED OURSELVES TO GIVE EVERY SHOVE WE COULD TO THE
STEEL NEGOTIATIONS THAT ARE STARTING NEXT WEEK IN THE OECD
IN WHICH AMBASSADOR WOLFF WILL BE PLAYING A MAJOR ROLE.
WE'VE AGREED TODAY, THAT WE HAVE HAD ENOUGH CONVERSATIONS
TODAY ABOUT TARIFFS TO KNOW THAT TARIFFS, WHILE A MAJOR
ITEM IN HERE, ARE NOT A MAJOR PROBLEM, THAT WE CAN COME

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TO GRIPS WITH TARIFFS. WE'RE NOT, IT'S NOT A
FRIGHTENING PROBLEM. IT'S A MAJOR ITEM BUT ONE THAT
WE ARE CERTAIN WE'LL BE ABLE TO BRING TO FRUITION. WE
HAVE AGREED TODAY THAT, INSTEAD OF THERE BEING A MINI
PACKAGE, WE KNOW THERE'S GOING TO HAVE TO BE A
COMPREHENSIVE AND A FULL AND A SUBSTANTIAL PACKAGE. THOSE
ARE TYPICAL OF THE KIND OF ISSUES THAT WE'VE COME TO GRIPS
WITH. IF YOU ASK ME IF WE'VE TRIED TO PUT FLESH ON ALL
THE BONES, OF COURSE WE HAVEN'T, AND TO DO SO WOULD,
NUMBER ONE, HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE, NUMBER TWO, HAVE BEEN
IMPROPER IF POSSIBLE. BUT WHAT WE'VE DONE IS ENABLE
THE VICE PRESIDENT AND SIR ROY TO GO BACK TO THE MEMBER
STATES. WE'RE GOING BACK TO OUR OWN GOVERNMENT. WE'LL
BE IN TOUCH WITH CONGRESS, THE JAPANESE, AND OUR OTHER
TRADE PARTNERS THAT WE'VE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH. THERE IS
TREMENDOUS WORK HAS GONE ON IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS, THAT
HAS GONE ON BEHIND THE STAGE SO WE KNEW TO SET THESE
TIMETABLES. I CAN ASSURE YOU IN SO FAR AS I'M CONCERNED,

I'M TOO VAIN TO SET THESE TIMETABLES IF I DIDN'T EXPECT
NOT ONLY TO MEET THEM BUT TO BEAT THEM.
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14. JOURNALIST 9UNIDENTIFIED):
HERR HAERKAMP, I WOULD LIKE TO ASK WHETHER YOU HAVE
RECEIVED SATISFACTORY ASSURANCES FROM MR. STRAUS,
ASSUAGING ASSURANCES FROM MR. STRAUS, ON THE QUESTION
OF POSSIBLE IMPOSITION OF COUNTERVAILING DUTIES AGAINST
FOREIGN EXPORTERS WHO ENJOY TAX REBATES?

15. HAERKAMP: AMBASSADOR STRAUSS AND OTHER AUTHORITIES
IN WASHINGTON, TOO, HAVE FOR SOME TIME MADE THEIR
POSITION VERY CLEAR IN THIS MATTER; AND I WOULD RECALL THAT
IN MARCH WE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY HERE TO DISCUSS THESE
QUESTIONS IN THE PRESENCE OF MR. COOPER. NOW THERE
HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THAT POSITION. IT'S A POSITION
WHICH WE CONSIDER TO BE EXTREMELY POSITIVE AND I CAN ONLY
SAY THAT IN OUR DISCUSSIONS TODAY WHENEVER WE TOUCHED UPON
THIS POINT THERE WAS FULL CONFIRMATION OF THE
PREVIOUS ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF AMBASSADOR STRAUSS AND
THE UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATION.

16. STRAUS: MAY I ADD TO THAT ONE FINAL THING. FIRST,
MR. VICE-PRESIDENT, MAY I EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION FOR YOUR
STATEMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE CONFIDENCE THAT YOU HAVE IN
US. MAY I GO FORWARD AND GO FURTHER AND SAY THAT WE
EXPECT WITHIN THE NEXT THIRTY TO SIXTY DAYS THAT WE WILL
HAVE OUR FIRST APPELATE ACTION IN THE COURT OF CUSTOMS AND
PATENT APPEALS. WE'VE CARRIED THAT APPEAL VERY
VIGOROUSLY TO THAT COURT. WE HOPE WE'LL WIN IT. I MUST
SAY TO YOU THAT I THINK THE ODDS ARE 50-50 THAT WE WILL,
NO BETTER. IF WE WIN IT, THERE WILL BE AN APPEAL BY
EITHER SIDE, OR IF WE LOSE IT, THERE'LL CERTAINLY BE AN
AGGRESSIVE APPEAL BY OUR SIDE TO THE SUPREME COURT OF THE
UNITED STATES, WHERE I WOULD THINK OUR CHANCES WOULD
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HOPEFULLY BE BETTER THAN 50-50 TO WIN IT. AND WE ADDED
THE ADDITIONAL ASSURANCE THAT NO ONE RECOGNIZES MORE
THAN I THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CHAOS THAT WILL RESULT
IF WE LOSE THOSE CASES. AND IF, IN FACT WE DO, WE SHALL
GO TO THE CONGRESS AND ASK FOR LEGISLATIVE RELIEF. MAY I
FURTHER SAY THAT THE ONE THING THAT GIVES ME ASSURANCE
THAT WE WILL HAVE LEGISLATIVE RELIEF, OR WE'LL HAVE A

REASONABLY GOOD CHANCE OF LEGISLATIVE RELIEF, IF NEEDED,
AND I HOPE WE WON'T NEED IT, IS THE FACT THAT WHEN WE HAVE
THIS KIND OF COMMITMENT AND GO TO THE CONGRESS AND
SAY THERE IS SOMETHING TAKING PLACE IN THE MTN, THERE IS
ACTION GOING FORWARD, LOOK WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED. THEN
I THINK THE CONGRESS WOULD LOOK MORE FAVORABLY ON ANY
REQUESTS WE MADE. BUT IT IS A TOTAL COMMITMENT ON THE
PART OF OUR COUNTRY.

17. JOURNALIST(UNIDENTIFIED):

MR. STRAUS, TO COME BACK TO AGRICULTURE, THERE IS ONE POINT
I HAVEN'T REALLY UNDERSTOOD. DO THE UNITED STATES NOW
ACCEPT THAT AGRICULTURAL QUESTIONS WILL BE DEALT WITH IN A
SPECIFIC WAY IN THE GATT BECAUSE I THINK THERE IS A PROBLEM
HERE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE EEC. DO YOU NOW
ACCEPT THAT AGRICULTURAL MATTERS SHOULD BE DEALT WITH IN A

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VERY SPECIFIC WAY AND SEPARATED FROM INDUSTRIAL PROBLEMS
IN THE GATT?

18. STRAUSS: LET ME SEE IF I CAN ANSWER THAT MORE PRECISELY
EVEN THAN YOUR QUESTION CALLED FOR. THERE IS A FULL
RECOGNITION FIRST, AS I SAID, THAT WE'RE NOT GOING, NOR
SHOULD WE, ATTEMPT TO UPSET ANY STRUCTURAL AGRICULTURAL
POLICIES OF THE EEC. NUMBER TWO, THERE IS A FULL
COMMITMENT ON OUR PART THAT AGRICULTURE WITH ITS DIFFERENT
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS, WILL BE NEGOTIATED IN

PARALLEL WITH THE INDUSTRIAL NEGOTIATIONS. NOW OBVIOUSLY THEY WON'T BE IN THE SAME ROOM, BECAUSE THEY'RE TREATED DIFFERENTLY, AND THEY WILL BE CONCLUDED SIMULTANEOUSLY. THEY WILL BE NEGOTIATED IN PARALLEL AND THEY WILL BE FOLDED BACK IN WITH THE FULL REALIZATION ON OUR PART THAT IF WE DON'T ACHIEVE AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS AND REFORM, IN SO FAR AS WE'RE CONCERNED, RECOGNIZING YOUR OWN SPECIFIC PROBLEMS IN THE COMMUNITY, THERE IS NO POINT IN OUR NEGOTIATING AN AGREEMENT. IT WOULDN'T PASS THE CONGRESS. AND SO AGRICULTURE IS ON THE FRONT BURNER WITH INDUSTRY, UNCLASSIFIED

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BUT OBVIOUSLY CAN'T BE NEGOTIATED, AS I SAY, IN THE SAME ROOM. DOES THAT ANSWER YOUR QUESTION?

19. ROBERT TAYLOR (REUTER):

MR. STRAUSS: YOU SAID THAT THE TIME TABLE FOR THE FIRST FOUR PHASES WOULD BE COMPLETED BY THE 15TH OF JANUARY, WHEN THE TOTAL PACKAGE WOULD ENTER THE PHASE OF DETAILED FINAL NEGOTIATIONS. HOW LONG DO YOU EXPECT THIS DETAILED FINAL NEGOTIATIONS TO LAST, A MATTER OF WEEKS, MONTHS, OR PERHAPS LONGER?

20. STRAUSS: I WOULD HOPE THAT, AND I'M NOW SPEAKING FOR MYSELF, THAT 90 DAYS, GIVE OR TAKE, COULD SEE THAT DONE. NOW OBVIOUSLY YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO, YOU'RE GETTING INTO WHERE YOU TRADE TWO APPLES FOR AN ORANGE AND A PIECE OF CERAMIC TILE FOR A CHAIR. AND I DON'T KNOW HOW THIN MY PATIENCE IS GOING TO WEAR. I HAVEN'T BEEN NOTED FOR PATIENCE. BUT THOSE THINGS HAVE TO BE DONE. CERTAINLY WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO PUT JUST AS STRICT A TIME FRAME ON THAT AS WE'VE DONE ON THIS. AND WHAT I REALLY CAME HERE, JOINED BY MY COLLEAGUES, IS TO SAY TO YOU IS THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME I THINK WE HAVE A JOINT AND FULL POLITICAL COMMITMENT BETWEEN THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EC AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES AND UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. I TALKED WITH PRESIDENT CARTER ON THE DAY BEFORE I LEFT TO COME HERE. I MET WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CABINET BESIDE MYSELF ON THE DAY BEFORE I CAME HERE AND I COME BEFORE YOU WITH FULL AND COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF OUR GOVERNMENT IN CLAIMING THE OBJECTIVES THAT WE'VE SET FORTH HERE. AND I WOULD HOPE THAT WHEN I RETURN IT WILL MEET, I FEEL CONFIDENT, IT WILL MEET WITH THE SAME POSITIVE RESPONSE THAT I FEEL FOR IT AND I HAVE EVERY FEELING THAT WHEN SIR ROY RETURNS FROM HIS FEW UNCLASSIFIED

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DAYS IN WASHINGTON OVER NEXT WEEKEND, AND THEN REPORTS
IN TURN WITH VICE PRESIDENT HAFERKAMP TO THE COUNTIL
ON JULY 25TH, THAT WE WILL BE EVEN MORE SPECIFIC
ON THESE FOUR PHASES, THAT WE'LL BE ABLE TO GIVE YOU
PRECISE DATES BY THEN AND EVEN MORE SPECIFICITY
ABOUT WHAT WE EXPECT TO ACCOMPLISH. IF WE DIDN'T
FEEL THAT, IF WE DIDN'T KNOW IT BASED ON WHAT WE'VE
DONE IN THE PAST, WE WOULDN'T BE STICKING OUR NECKS
OUT HERE TODAY. SO LET ME CONCLUDE THIS PRESS
CONFERENCE BY SAYING AGAIN TO YOU THAT THIS HAS BEEN
CERTAINLY THE FINEST DAY I'VE HAD SINCE I CAME INTO
THIS JOB. IT'S THE FIRST TIME I REALLY FELT CERTAIN
THAT WE HAVE A DOABLE DEAL, IF YOU WILL, THE FIRST
TIME I'VE FELT CERTAIN THAT THE WILL, THE POLITICAL WILL,
EXISTS AMONG THOSE WITH WHOM WE'LL BE CONDUCTING OUR
AFFAIRS. I LOOK FORWARD IMMEDIATELY UPON MY RETURN
TO CONTACTING THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE JAPANESE
GOVERNMENT, THE LDCS AND OTHERS INVOLVED. I WANT
TO CONCLUDE BY FIRST THANKING EACH OF YOU FOR COMING
AND SAY I LOOK FORWARD TO COMING AGAIN TOWARDS THE END
OF OCTOBER TO SEE YOU ABOUT WHAT THESE PHASES, AGAIN
A TIME OR TWO IN THE FALL, POSSIBLY TO MEET WITH YOU
AND GIVE YOU CONTINUING REPORTS. I LOOK FORWARD TO
WORKING WITH PRESIDENT JENKINS, WITH MR. HAFERKAMP
AND SIR ROY AND THE OTHERS. I THINK WE'RE GOING TO HAVE
AN MTN OF SUBSTANCE THAT'S COMPREHENSIVE AND THAT
WILL BE MEANINGFUL, NOT FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW, BUT FOR
THE NEXT DECADE OR SO, FOR TRADE AMONG THE NATIONS OF
THE WORLD.

21. COMMISSION SPOKESMAN RUGGIERO:

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

I THINK THERE ARE SOME OTHER QUESTIONS BUT I THINK
AMBASSADOR STRAUSS HAS TO LEAVE AND PERHAPS VICE
PRESIDENT HAFERKAMP WANTS TO SAY SOME FINAL REMARKS.

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
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AID-05 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01
SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-09 NEA-10

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IGA-02 /156 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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INFO USMISSION GENEVA

ALL EC CAPITALS

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22. HAFERKAMP: FIRST OF ALL, I'D LIKE TO JOIN IN THANKING THE PRESS OFFICER AND JOIN MR. STRAUSS IN THANKING YOU, BUT THESE POINTS WHICH WE WILL BE DEALING WITH SOON WE CAN DEAL WITH IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE GUIDELINES WE WERE GIVEN IN 1974 FOR NEGOTIATION. WE ARE VERY PLEASED THAT WE ARE MOVING INTO A DECISIVE STAGE, WITH A VIEW TO FINAL NEGOTIATIONS. I'D LIKE TO THANK MR. STRAUSS AND HIS COLLEAGUES VERY WARMLY FOR COMING HERE TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST WITH SUCH A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION. THANK YOU.

23. STRAUSS: MAY I ADD ONE WORD. I REALLY NEGLECTED THIS. I PUT IT IN BUT NOT WITH PROPER EMPHASIS, WITH RESPECT TO PRESIDENT JENKINS AND COMMISSIONER HAFERKAMP, COMMISSIONER DAVIGNON, COMMISSIONER GUNDELACH, WE COULD NOT HAVE RECEIVED A MORE POSITIVE RESPONSE, WE COULD NOT HAVE RECEIVED A MORE FLEXIBLE, INTELLIGENT APPROACH AND A HELPFUL ONE IN THE TIME WE SPENT TODAY. IT WAS VERY HEARTWARMING. HINTON
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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